

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum.*  
 Volume III. *Catalogue of the Arctiadae (Arctiinae) and Agari-  
 stidae in the Collection of the British Museum.* By Sir GEORGE F.  
 HAMPSON, Bart. London: printed by order of the Trustees.  
 Pp. xix, 690. Plates xxxvi.-liv.

THE two previous volumes of this large work were published in 1898 and 1900 respectively, and we congratulate the author and the authorities of the British Museum on the rapid progress which they have been able to make, though it is not possible that the book can be completed on the same scale under forty or fifty volumes at least. As Prof. E. Ray Lankester remarks in his Preface, "The subject of the 3rd volume of *Lepidoptera Phalaenæ* is the last of the three subfamilies of the *Arctiadae*—the *Arctiinae*, in which 946 species are described and classified; the Volume also contains the small family *Aguristidae*, with 225 species, a somewhat specialized development from the *Noctuidæ*, the antennæ being modified in relation to their day-flying habits."

These families of Lepidoptera, though not including any very large species, contain many of the most beautiful moths in the world; and in addition to the crowded figures on the coloured plates, drawn by Mr. Horace Knight, the volume before us is further illustrated by 294 illustrations in the text, exhibiting the markings, venation, head, and antennæ of each species thus figured, and sometimes the legs also.

The third volume is similar in style and execution to its predecessors, which we have already reviewed at length at the time of their appearance. An attempt is made to illustrate the mutual relationships of the genera by tables exhibiting the supposed phylogeny, and keys to the genera are given, based chiefly, but not exclusively, on neurulation; tables of species are also given under each genus, chiefly arranged according to colours and markings. We note that the author does not recognize generic names unaccompanied by a figure, not even when they are applied to species which are figured, and therefore unmistakable. We are glad to see occasional and tolerably full descriptions of larvæ. We regret, however, that more information is not afforded as to whether names sunk as synonyms are absolute synonyms, or whether they represent sections of genera or varieties of species respectively. An innovation which we have not seen before is the rejection of the letter "k" in the Latinized names employed, even in the case of those derived from proper names—*Xanthospilopteryx Kirbyi* being written *X. Kirbyi*. But granting that "k" is not a Latin letter, it is usual in most languages to use a foreign letter for foreign names, even if it does not belong to the alphabet; and we doubt if any French entomologist of the present day would write "Ucawer" for "Weaver," as was actually done by Guenée.

But however much we may find to criticize in the book before us in matters in which there is room for difference of opinion, and

although it is impossible that so large a work can be free from occasional errors, its great and permanent value to all students of Lepidoptera cannot reasonably be disputed by anyone, especially on account of the numerous illustrations.

*The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay.* By THEODORE COOKE, C.I.E., formerly Principal of the College of Science at Poona and Director of the Botanical Survey of Western India. *Ranunculaceæ* to *Rutaceæ*. Published under the Authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. London: Taylor & Francis, 1901. Pp. 2 & 1-192.

On the completion of the 'Flora of British India' by Sir Joseph Hooker in 1897 it was thought that the time had come when the preparation of local floras of that vast empire was feasible; the outline having been drawn, the details could now be filled in and more attention devoted to those local conditions which the scale of the previous work rendered impracticable.

The present work is a first instalment of an account of the Bombay flora, and also the first of a series of projected regional floras of India, organized by the Director of the Botanical Survey of that possession, Major D. Prain, following the lines indicated by his predecessor, Sir George King. Dr. Cooke, the author, has had excellent opportunities of making acquaintance with the Bombay flora at first hand, and the resulting large herbarium he accumulated has been collated as the work progressed with the extensive Indian material at Kew. This gives a solid basis to the production before us.

The descriptions of the genera and species are more detailed than in the 'Flora of British India,' and naturally with greater attention to local citations, as befits the character of the book. We have not noticed many new species or plants admitted to that rank—only two, in fact; but on ground that has been so assiduously worked over that is not very surprising; on the contrary, we are disposed to consider it a proof of sound judgment on the part of the author, who is further to be praised for the general excellence of his performance, which is enhanced by the pleasing and legible method of printing adopted.

The continuation of the work is assured by the authorization of the Secretary of State for India, and, when complete, the Presidency will be in possession of an admirable handbook of its flora.

*Zoological Results based on Material from New Britain, New Guinea, Loyalty Islands, and elsewhere, collected during the Years 1895, 1896, and 1897, by Arthur Willey, D.Sc.* Part V. Cambridge, 1900, at the University Press. 4to.

THE fifth part of Dr. Willey's 'Zoological Results' contains half a dozen articles of very varying degrees of interest to the general zoological reader, though each is good of its kind.

The volume opens with a "Description of the Entozoa . . ." by Mr. A. E. Shipley, who states that Dr. Willey's collection of these